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Agenda item 65

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/46/678)]

46/49. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987, 43/79 of 7 December 1988, 44/120 of 15 December 1989, 45/77 of 12 December 1990 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No.45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

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Recalling further paragraph 22 of the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 2/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived initially in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps in the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Welcoming the positive developments in international political relations enhancing peace, security and cooperation, and expressing the hope that the new spirit of international cooperation will be reflected in the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean,

Noting with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, in 1993,

Considering that the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean should work in close cooperation with the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to ensure the success of the Conference and play their part in the achievement of its objectives,

Considering also that the creation of the zone of peace requires cooperation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has agreed, inter alia, on the provisional agenda for the Conference,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 3/

2. Reaffirms full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

3. Reiterates and emphasizes its decision to convene the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration;

2/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No.29 and corrigendum (A/46/29 and Corr.1).

4. Notes with satisfaction the preparatory work done by the Ad Hoc Committee in the implementation of the mandate entrusted to it for the convening of the Conference;

5. Decides that the Conference should be structured in more than one stage;

6. Also decides to convene the first stage of the Conference at Colombo in 1993, or as soon as possible, in accordance with the present resolution and in consultation with the host country;

7. Recommends that the participation at the Conference should be at an appropriately high political level;

8. Calls for the full and active participation in the Conference of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, whose cooperation and participation is essential for the success of the Conference;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint the Secretary-General of the Conference at an appropriate time and to make all necessary arrangements, including the provision of financial resources for convening the Conference at Colombo, in consultation with the host country;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to participate in the Conference, and other relevant bodies and organizations to attend as observers;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide to the Conference all relevant documentation in accordance with paragraphs 48 and 49 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee;

12. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee will hold a session of five working days in 1992 to perform its preparatory functions for the various stages envisaged for the Conference;

13. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991